

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY COLOMBO PRIORITY

CINCPACREP GUAM TTPI

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS:OCON:ECAFE

SUBJECT: ECAFE: 30TH PLENARY SESSION AGENDA

REF: A) COLOMBO 686 (NOTAL); B) STATE 032157

CINCPACREP GUAM PASS SAIPAN FOR STATUS LNO:TRENT

1. FOR COLOMBO: PROVISIONAL AGENDA MENTIONED PARA 3
REFTEL IS STILL CORRECT. US POSITION PAPERS WILL NOT BE
COMPLETE AND CLEARED UNTIL ABOUT MARCH 22. MYLES GREENE
WILL BRING SETS WITH HIM. NOW THAT CONFERENCE ISSUES ARE
EMERGING, HOWEVER, WE CAN GIVE FOLLOWING SUMMARY OF OUR
VIEWS ON AGENDA.

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2. FOR SAIPAN: REFTEL B PROMISED TO SEND REVIEW OF USG

POSITIONS FOR INFO OF TTPI DEL. FOLLOWING SUMMARY MAY ALSO BE USED IN THAT CONNECTION.

3. ECAFE AGENDA FOR 30TH PLENARY SESSION IS TYPICAL COMMISSION DOCUMENT IN THAT MORE THAN HALF OF ITEMS INVOLVE ROUTINE REPORTS FROM SUB-BODIES OR RELATED ACTIVITIES OF PAST YEAR. ALTHOUGH WE WILL HAVE POSITION ON EACH OF THESE, THEIR CONSIDERATION IN SESSION SHOULD NOT RAISE SERIOUS PROBLEMS.

4. IN A NUMBER OF THESE MORE ROUTINE AGENDA ITEMS, THERE IS, HOWEVER, ONE SUBJECT WHICH DOES CONCERN US (AND PROBABLY OTHERS ALSO). THIS HAS TO DO WITH ECAFE'S INCLINATION TO START UNNEEDED OR AT LEAST QUESTIONABLE NEW ORGANIZATIONS, WITH THE MONEY, BUREAUCRACY AND DOUBTFUL UTILITY THAT MANY OF THEM INVOLVE. THIS YEAR'S DOCUMENTS RECOMMEND ACTION TO ESTABLISH REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS RELATED TO SOCIAL WELFARE, COMMERCIAL INFORMATION, INVESTMENT, TECHNOLOGY AND ENERGY. AT THE MOMENT OUR PLAN IS TO OPPOSE ABOVE, AS WELL AS SUGGEST THAT SOME EXISTING ECAFE-RELATED ORGANIZATIONS SHOULD BE CONSOLIDATED AND/OR ABOLISHED.

5. BEYOND THIS GENERALLY ROUTINE PORTION OF AGENDA, FOLLOWING ARE MORE SIGNIFICANT ITEMS:

A. ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL REVIEW: THIS IS TRADITIONAL ITEM UNDER WHICH EACH DELEGATION GIVES ITS MAJOR SPEECH. REGIONAL COUNTRIES NORMALLY REVIEW OWN INTERNAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS (LIKELY TO BE EVEN MORE PESSIMISTIC THAN USUAL) AND NON-REGIONAL MEMBERS DISCUSS BROADER ISSUES. THIS YEAR IT WILL BE A BIT DIFFERENT IN THAT NEW ECAFE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY IS TRYING TO GIVE MORE EMPHASIS TO SOCIAL ASPECTS (THUS SPECIAL DOCUMENTATION ON SUBJECTS SUCH AS POVERTY, EDUCATION AND POPULATION). IN ADDITION, ENERGY CRISIS WILL BE DISCUSSED. IN RECENT ECAFE ENERGY CONFERENCE SRI LANKA AND INDIA WERE PARTICULARLY ACTIVE IN CRITICIZING PETROLEUM PRICES (AS OPPOSED TO SUPPLY) AND WE EXPECT TO HEAR MORE OF SAME. US DEL'S SPEECH WILL INCLUDE SECTION ON ENERGY.

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B. ECAFE MEMBERSHIP: POSSIBILITY THAT PRC OR OTHER MEMBERS MIGHT PROPOSE ECAFE MEMBERSHIP FOR GRUNK, PRG, NORTH VIETNAM AND/OR NORTH KOREA HAS BEEN DISCUSSED IN OTHER CABLES, BUT WE OF COURSE DO NOT KNOW WHETHER THIS ISSUE WILL ACTUALLY BE RAISED. GREENE WILL BE PREPARED DISCUSS THIS WITH TTPI DEL.

C. REFORMING AND RESTRUCTURING OF ECAFE: FOLLOWING

AGREEMENT IN 29TH PLENARY SESSION IN TOKYO, THIS HAS BEEN A MAJOR PROJECT INVOLVING PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES IN BANGKOK AND SECRETARIAT DURING MUCH OF PAST YEAR. WE ARE WELL SATISFIED WITH AT LEAST 80 PERCENT OF "RATIONALIZATION" RECOMMENDATIONS BEING MADE TO PLENARY AND ARE HOPEFUL ACCEPTABLE COMPROMISES IN FEW AREAS OF DISAGREEMENT CAN BE WORKED OUT. ONE OF LATTER INVOLVES SRI LANKA PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH A COMMITTEE ON SHIPPING AND INVISIBLES, WHICH WE OPPOSE.

D. WORK PROGRAM: SPECIAL "TECHNICAL COMMITTEE" WILL REVIEW IN DETAIL COMING YEAR'S PROPOSED WORK PROGRAM FOR ECAFE SECRETARIAT. ALTHOUGH IT IS TEDIOUS WORK, IT IS AMONG MORE IMPORTANT ACTIVITIES OF SESSION AND WOULD ALSO BE USEFUL OCCASION FOR TTPI TO LEARN MORE ABOUT ECAFE ACTIVITIES.

E. PRC PARTICIPATION: BEYOND POSSIBLE ISSUE OF SPONSORING NEW ECAFE MEMBERS, PRC'S MERE PRESENCE WILL BE SIGNIFICANT. ONLY ONE AGENDA ITEM IS FORMALLY RELATED TO PRC, I.E. QUESTION OF USING CHINESE AS AN ECAFE WORKING LANGUAGE. BUT WE EXPECT PRC TO BE GENERALLY MORE ACTIVE THAN THEY WERE IN TOKYO, WHICH WAS FIRST ECAFE SESSION THEY HAD ATTENDED.

6. FOR COLOMBO: WE REALIZE SOME OF THESE ISSUES MAY HAVE INTERNAL SRI LANKA REPERCUSSIONS AND WE HOPE EMBASSY WILL HAVE TIME TO ADVISE US ACCORDINGLY. IN ADDITION, SINCE AGENDA IS SUCH A LONG ONE, WE HOPE HAROLD BIRNBAUM WILL BE ABLE WORK FULLTIME WITH DELEGATION. FINALLY, WE MAY NEED WORK WITH USIS SHOULD PRESS SEEK CONTACT WITH DEL. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WOULD APPRECIATE IT IF USIS OFFICER WOULD CONTACT GREENE ABOUT THIS POSSIBILITY AFTER LATTER'S ARRIVAL. KISSINGER

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